Use of IT for social development

536. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposals to make use of information technology for the social development of the poor people;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Information Technology is continuously evolving and implementing projects through which IT may be effectively used for the benefit to poor people, in rural areas.

(b) Details of current projects are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The projects are being implemented through various academic/R&D institutions/NGOs etc.

Statement

Details fo our projects to make use of information technology for social development of the poor

(i) **Facilitating education of blind students with IT application**

Considering a large number of blind populations in India a project on computerized Braille transcription and printing system was initiated so that a text written in English or in Indian languages is converted into Braille form. This can be stored or printed from the computer to make Braille material available to the Blind students in printed form easily. Besides, electronic storage and transmitting of text over a network is also possible. Such systems have already been installed in few Blind schools of Assam. The same system has been installed at One School in Sikkim and Two Schools in Mizoram which are working satisfactorily. The Braille transcription technology will help to generate book in Braille form for blind.

(ii) **Augmentation of Infrastructure in Blind Schools of West Bengal**

The proposal for Installation of Braille Transcription system in 27 Blind Schools in all over State of West Bengal in collaboration with IT Department and Department of Mass Education of West Bengal has been approved in MIT.

(iii) **Health Care for the Rural/Remote people**

Telemedicine is an emergine field of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in the health care sector. This virtually brings a remote patient alongwith all medical reports in front of the specialist using IT techniques for medical examination such that the remote patient can receive expert medical advice and prescription from the distant medical specialist. Early detection of diseases, rendering expert medical advice, patient management and several other patient care aspects can be extended to the rural population using urban facilities.

The project Telemedicine for Tele-Healthcare during Mela/Festival/ Disaster was installed as a case study/trial during Maha Kumbha Mela in Allahabad starting from 6th January 2001 to 26th February 2001. The system was sponsored by Ministry of Information Technology and executed by Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow, Departments of Information Technology and Health, Government of Uttar Pradesh and Online Telemedicine Research Institute, Ahmedabad. The performance of the Telemedicine system was very good and encouraging for the critical patient and about 170 patients were attended for various treatment including 64 Cardiology and 32 Radiology cases from SGPGI.

(iv) **The following projects on IT application in social sector have been proposed for implementation:**

(a) IT for Adult Literacy at Patna and Ranchi.

(b) IT for Empowering the Working Children Panchayat and Youth employment for the District Udupi.

(c) IT for Leprocy Patient, Tribal Employment and Youth Training for Maharogi Seva Samithi at Anandwan.

(v) **Establishment of Village Information-Cum Counselling centres at** Lugyakhedi Panchayat of Tarana Block of Ujjain Distt. (MP). Implemented at national Centre for Human Settlements and Environment Bhopal (NCHSE), Madhya Pradesh. Preliminary Study conducted and report received. Total Outlay 15.47 Lakhs. The main objective is to establish village information centre at Panchayat level (samadhan kendras) to provide information and counsel villager and field staff with regard to rural development. The end users will be provided with information, guidance and counsel at such levels as planning, implementation and monitoring of the programme.

(vi) **IT for Integrated Rural Development (Samadhan Centres).** Implemented at Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwa Vidyalaya Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh. preliminary Study conducted and report received. Total Outlay 17.64 Lakhs. Under the project, three samadhan kendras will be set up in the Majagaya block and a resource centre at the university to provide sustainable operation of samadhan kendras. The project will be a venture of IT backed Gram Swaraj in terms of resource inventory and data centre to entrepreneurial sector. volunatry agency sector, panchayat Raj sector.

(vii) **Design of Solar cum Electrical Dryer** Central Plantation Crop Research Institute Kerala. Project is ongoing. Total Outlay 4.20 Lakhs. Development of solar multi crop drier with electronic temperature control using forced air convection and convection heaters for coconut and later, arecaunt pepper and cardamom.

(viii) **Solar Powered Grain Moisture Measurement System.** Implemented by R & DC Noida. Project is completed. Total Outlay 15 Lakhs. To develop a micro processor based, solar powered grain moisture measurement system which is handy, rugged, low power consuming and can be used as a stand alone system in the field which is ideal for rural conditions.

(ix) **Community Information Centres.** Implemented by NICSI. Project is ongoing. Total Outaly 22000 Lakhs. (estimated cost). An ambitious programme has been undertaken by the Ministry of Information Technology to establish Community Information Centres in 446 blocks in all the North East States to promote Information Technology and its applications. Another 40 such centres will be set up in Sikkim.

Media Lab Asia

537. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently set up the Media Lab Asia (MLA) on the lines of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, to deploy information technology in the every day life of the common man;

(b) if so, the details of the organisation, reportedly registered under section 25 of the Indian Companies Act, main objectives, structure, faculty, source of funding, etc. and

(c) the time frame to operationalise the Media Lab Asia?